

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : José Carlos Albano Do Amarante et al.  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In the above-identified application for United States patent,  
please amend as follows.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on Page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims  
which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 6 of this paper.